6th August 1955]

" (c) No allegation against the Revision Officer by the taxpayers has been received by Government so far."

Police officers sent to Pondicherry.

* 1977 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many officers of the Police department have been sent to Pondicherry Territory; and

(*b*) at whose request they were sent?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Sixteen.

' (*b*) At the request of the Government of India."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Police Officers who were deputed to Pondicherry are going to be withdrawn at the end of the year? If so, I would request the Government to retain those officers there itself in view of their yeoman services rendered for the maintenance of law and order during their stay in Pondicherry."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Provisionally these Police Officers have been lent. What is to happen to them later on is under the consideration of the Central Government and they will take decision."

Pepper cultivation.

* 1978 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken in regard to pepper cultivation with special reference to the following points :—

(i) to increase the quantity of pepper produced ;

(ii) to improve the quality of pepper ;

(iii) to increase the extent of lands under pepper cultivation ; and

(iv) to see that the cultivator gets maximum price?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (i) to (iv) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The agriculturists are put to a great loss in view of the fluctuations in the price obtained for pepper. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government will examine this question and take necessary steps to see that the price of pepper is maintained at a particular level? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" One of the measures undertaken by the Government is, Sir, to have the export duty reduced on black pepper from 30 per cent *ad valorem* or Rs. 65 per swt., whichever is lower to 15 per cent *ad valorem*. This measure will lead to greater export of pepper and that will lead to the improvement of prices obtained for pepper."

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* **Printed as Appendix II on pages 667–668 infra.**